

THE VANTAGE POINT



American Planning Association
Pennsylvania Chapter

Making Great Communities Happen

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IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

Fairmount Park Named One of 15 Great Places in America by the American Planning Association

In the fall of 2016, The American Planning Association (APA) named **Fairmount Park in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania**, as one of five Great Public Spaces on the organization's annual Great Places in America list.

APA's Great Places in America program recognizes streets, neighborhoods, and public spaces in the United States demonstrating exceptional character, quality, and planning—attributes that enrich communities, facilitate economic growth, and inspire others around the country. The Great Neighborhoods, Great Streets, and Great Public Spaces are places that are unique and exemplary



Runners at the start of the annual Boxers' Trail 5k in East Fairmount Park; they will follow the same path where heavyweight champion Joe Frazier trained. Photo courtesy of Albert Yee.

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2017 Nominations Now Open for Great Places in Pennsylvania

Nominations are now open for the APA PA "Great Places in Pennsylvania" initiative. For 2017, we are seeking to recognize and celebrate **Great Public Spaces** and **Great Streets**. Both are essential components of successful communities, whether they are rural, suburban or urban.

Great Places are unique, memorable places that display a wealth of best practices in community planning and serve as models for other communities. They represent the gold standard in terms of having a true sense of place, cultural interest, community involvement, and a sustainable vision for tomorrow.

Pennsylvania is full of amazing public spaces and streets that help to make it a magnificent place for people to live, work and play. Do you know of a special public space or street that truly stands out in what it offers residents and visitors? Do think it merits designation as a Great Place in Pennsylvania? If so, **NOMINATE IT!**

Nominations will be accepted through April 18, 2017. For more information, including guidelines, category criteria, and the nomination form, please visit the APA PA website <http://planningpa.org/about/great-places-in-pennsylvania-2/>

All Great Public Space and Street nominations must be submitted online at <http://planningpa.org/about/great-places-in-pennsylvania-2/great-places-submission-form/>

Chapter members are not only encouraged to submit nominations, but are also encouraged to promote the Great Places initiative to colleagues, local municipalities, and others. With your help, more Great Places will be designated in 2017 and we can celebrate these achievements together.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Pam Shellenberger, Great Places in PA Program Chair, at pshellenberger@yepc.org. ♦

FAIRMONT PARK

in their amenities and infrastructure, cultural identity, and use of sustainable and innovative practices.

Fairmont Park is a unique planning story as it represents one of the first efforts to protect a municipal watershed by dramatically altering land uses to both mitigate pollution and create a space for public recreation. In addition to Fairmount Park, APA also recognized the following public spaces in 2016:

- Golden Heart Plaza - Fairbanks, Alaska
- Central Park Plaza - Valparaiso, Indiana
- Findlay Market - Cincinnati, Ohio
- Guthrie Green - Tulsa, Oklahoma

Since launching the Great Places in America program in 2007, APA has recognized 260 neighborhoods, streets, and public spaces around the country. Places are selected annually and represent the gold standard in terms of having a true sense of place, cultural and historical interest, community involvement, and a vision for the future.

For more information about APA's Great Public Spaces and Streets, visit www.planning.org/greatplaces. ♦



Musicians entertaining the crowd at the 2014 GLOW in the Park, held that year outside the Strawberry Mansion Music Pavilion in East Fairmount Park. Photo courtesy of Albert Yee.



Bicyclists at the opening day of the Philly Pumptrack at Parkside Evans, dedicated in the spring of 2014. Photo courtesy of Albert Yee.



Committee Chair *Spotlight*

The Chapter Welcomes a New Legislative Chair

The Legislative committee is re-organizing, and **Erica Ehly** is our new Chair. If you are interested in joining her Committee, please email Erica at eehly@crcog.net



Erica Ehly, AICP, is currently a Senior Planner with the Centre Regional Planning Agency, which provides planning services for the Centre Region Council of Governments. Erica is both a regional planner for the Centre Region and a local planner for Halfmoon Township, one of the six municipalities in the COG. Erica began a career in planning in Florida, spending seven years as a long-range planner. Prior to working for the Centre Region, Erica was a Senior Planner for Stafford County, near Fredericksburg, Virginia. She is originally from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, although she spent the majority of her childhood overseas in a foreign service environment. ♦



Board Member *Spotlight*



Amy McKinney is the PA Chapter of APA Vice President, and previously served as Secretary. Amy has been with the Lawrence County Department of Planning and Community Development since 2003 and has been the Planning Director since 2007. Prior to joining the County of Lawrence, Amy spent 2 years working in the private sector as a planning consultant. Amy serves on her local Planning Commission, serves as President of Tri-County CleanWays and is a leader in her son's Cub Scout Pack. When not working, Amy enjoys watching her three kids in their various activities, skiing with her family, traveling, running and cheering on her Pittsburgh Steelers, Pirates, and Penguins. ♦

PDO *corner*

by Susan Elks, AICP, Professional Development Officer

APA has provided detailed information on the **updates to the AICP exam**, which are being implemented for this May's testing cycle. The exam content outline has been fully updated, with the number of **content areas reduced from seven to five**. The new content areas, with the percentage of questions that reflect that content area, are:

- Fundamental Planning Knowledge (25%)
- Plan Making and Implementation (30%)
- Areas of Practice (30%)
- Leadership, Administration, and Management (5%)
- AIPC Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct (10%)

These content areas reflect a re-organization and refinement of the previous content outline, not a complete overhaul, so **many existing study resources will still be useful for those preparing for the exam**. Test takers should pay careful attention to the sub-categories under each content area, and the weighting of the content areas, to direct their exam preparations. The content outline is available at: <https://www.planning.org/certification/examprep/subjectmatter.htm>

The exam is still multiple-choice, with 150 questions that count toward the score and 20 questions that are in a preliminary or pre-test stage and therefore do not count. Overall, APA has a question pool of approximately 800 questions for the exam, and around 100 questions were replaced. Some of those 100 new questions will be on exams in May, but they will be within the 20 pre-test questions that do not count toward a test taker's official score. APA did re-code all of the questions within the overall pool, and may still be bringing in pre-test questions from the 2013 exam refresh, so **test takers should expect to see a different exam overall than they may have heard about from prior test takers**.

Those who take the exam in May should be prepared to wait approximately two months for their official score. Given the changes in the exam, APA will need to review all results before determining the pass score, which was previously set at 55.

An important aspect of the revised content outline is the **increased weight of the Code of Ethics** (from 5% to 10%), which is based on the revised Code that was adopted by APA on April 1, 2016. The 2016 revisions focused on procedural aspects of the Code, leaving the rules of conduct and aspirational principles intact from the prior version. The latest Code of Ethics can be found at: www.planning.org/ethics/ethicscode.htm

There remain many useful exam prep resources, including the Chapter's website and the APA website. The Chapter's website contains various exam prep resources, and the PowerPoint slides from the March 2017 in-person prep session will reflect the revised content outline. Chapter resources are available at: <https://planningpa.org/for-planners/professional-planners/aicp-exam-prep/>

The APA website includes many useful resources, including:

Planning Advisory Service reports (now free for APA members for free): www.planning.org/pas/

Policy Guides: www.planning.org/policy/guides/

Reading list (refined from prior versions): www.planning.org/certification/examprep/selectedreading.htm ♦



2017 AICP Exam Prep March 4 @ 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

The Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Planning Association is once again holding an all-day AICP exam prep session on Saturday, March 4 from 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. This will be held at the Community Room at the Giant Shopping Center, Camp Hill.

The session will review the content outline of the AICP exam, which APA recently updated, and provide details on the different content areas. The May 2017 exam has been updated to reflect the new content outline, and the session will take time to clarify understanding of the revised exam. Questions are encouraged throughout the day. PA Chapter members can attend for free and non-members pay \$35. Registration is required. <https://planningpa.org/aicp-exam-prep-form/>



APA-PA 2017

OCTOBER 22 - 24, 2017
The Penn Stater • State College, PA

annual conference



INSIDER

A Message from President **James Cowhey, AICP**

The **Pennsylvania State Planning Board** has been meeting regularly again since mid-2016 and I remain hopeful that this will continue. I've made it point to attend the quarterly meetings of the Board on behalf of the Chapter. I have observed the interest and commitment of the Board members. There has been good discussion about the issues presented to the Board by Governor Wolf. I believe his staff is listening closely to the policy deliberations of the Board.

More than fourteen statewide organizations provided commentary to the Planning Board on the issues of government efficiency, community revitalization, and infrastructure.

The written comments provided on behalf of the Chapter can be found on the Chapter website at the link for the state Planning Board. <https://planningpa.org/advocacy/pa-state-planning-board/> Several organization independently provided very similar suggestions which tells me that many of us have given a great deal of thought about how to improve Pennsylvania's communities.

In particular, there were several separate mentions of the **importance of the Governor's Center for Local Government Services**. The Governor's Center has always been an excellent source of planning and related information for townships, cities, boroughs, and counties. The Center provides an important link between state government and local government. The Center still provides great service but is somewhat limited due to staff reductions. **There is now only one planner on staff who serves the entire state while at one time there were several regional planners.** GCLCS Planner **Denny Puko** upholds the great service delivery ethic of the Center and the chapter is a beneficiary of Denny's work. Commentators recognized his service but urged the Planning Board to recommend increased planning staff for the center.

Several of us also mentioned the need for **increased planning funding through the Municipal Assistance Program**. Like the GCLGS, the MAP grants are a shadow of what they were in the past. There are many

examples of what planners consider best practice that were funded in part by MAP grants. These grants provide the necessary up-front funding that incentivizes municipalities to think strategically and implement good planning for the long term. **The State Planning Board was advised to be advocates for continued and increased funding of this important grant program.**

I remain optimistic about the future of the Pennsylvania State Planning Board and will continue to represent our members' interest to the Board by attending the meetings and participating in the discussions as appropriate. **I believe the great potential of Pennsylvania can only be realized if our state government is intentional about the future. The Planning Board should continue to be an important advisor to the governor and his administration.** ♦

Congratulations!

Congratulations to the new AICPs from Pennsylvania!

Congratulations to the newly certified planner who passed the November 2016 Comprehensive Planning Exam and have joined the AICP!

Kent Baird
Brandy Bones
Elizabeth Compitello
Jennifer Cristobal
Nicholas Fedorek

Katrina Flora
Erik Genga
Michelle Goddard
Krista Guerrieri
Jennifer Horn

Jonathan Huber
Louis Hufnagle
David Kimmerly
Breen Masciotra
Jenny Picciano

Rhonda Ryan
Dawn Schilling
Amy Silbermann
Jonathan Spencer
Kip Van Blarcom

Student *Scholarships Available!*

Each year the Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Planning Association offers a scholarship program to support individuals seeking funds for **academic degree programs, internships, and/or professional development activities** that enhance planning at the local, regional, state, and national levels. The program is supported by:

- The Francis Pitkin scholarship fund
- The Richard P. Byler Charitable Fund of The Philadelphia Foundation
- Funding from The Leslie and Greta Spaulding Education Fund
- Funding from the Richard G. Bickel, FAICP, Planning Education Award

The annual applications have been released to fund scholarships for the 2017-2018 academic year. **The deadline to apply is Sunday, April 30, 2017 at midnight. Recipients will be notified by June 30, 2017, and funds awarded in the summer.**

<https://planningpa.org/for-planners/professional-planners/student-scholarships/> ♦



welcome
New PA Chapter Members!

WE WELCOME THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS who joined the PA Chapter over the past few months. The PA Chapter membership includes nearly 2,500 planning officials, professional planners, and others who care about how Pennsylvania continues to grow the places where we live, work, and enjoy recreation. The board and staff are available to answer any questions. Feel free to contact the Chapter Office at 717-671-4510. Board member contact information is available at www.planningpa.org under **About Us**.

Individual Members:

Jesse Descutner, *Southwest Section*
James Hamilton, *Southeast Section*
Josh Lippert, *Southwest Section* ♦



American Planning Association **Pennsylvania Chapter**
Making Great Communities Happen

587 James Drive
Harrisburg, PA 17112
717 671-4510 (P)
717 545-9247 (F)
www.planningpa.org

Susan Shermer, CMP
Administrative Director
sshermer@shermer-assoc.com

Kim Gusic
Administrative Assistant
kdiep@shermer-assoc.com

R. Keith McNally
Conference Coordinator
keithmcn@aol.com

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PA Chapter *Executive Committee*

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Lancaster County Planning Commission

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Lawrence County Planning Department

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Housing Authority of Dauphin County

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Katie Stringent
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Legislative Committee Chair

Erica H. Ehly, AICP

Contact information is available at www.planningpa.org under "About Us"

PMPEI COURSES FOR WINTER/SPRING 2017

(as of February 6, 2017)

All are 10 hour courses. For further information and registration contact
Ms. Terri Dickow at (800) 232-7722 ext. 1042 or TDickow@boroughs.org

COURSES

Course in Community Planning

Lycoming County	February 8, 15, 22	Lycoming Co. Lysock View Complex, 542 County Farm Road, Montoursville
Bucks County	February 22, March 1, 8	Delaware Valley University Student Ctr, 700 E. Butler Ave. Doylestown
Montgomery County	March 7, 14, 21	Upper Merion Township Municipal Bldg., 175 W Valley Forge Rd., King of Prussia
Chester County	March 7, -, 21, 28	West Chester Univ. Graduate Center, 1160 McDermott Drive, West Chester
Potter County	May 25, 26	Gunzburger Bldg, 1 North Main Street, Coudersport

Course in Zoning

Dauphin County	March 2, 9, 16	Swatara Township Building, 599 Eisenhower Blvd., Harrisburg
Lycoming County	March 8, 15, 22	Lycoming Co. Lysock View Complex, 542 County Farm Road, Montoursville
Lancaster County	March 15, 22, 29	Lancaster Co. Public Safety Trng Ctr, 101 Champ Blvd., Manheim
Bucks County	April 12, 19, 26	Delaware Valley University Student Ctr, 700 E. Butler Ave. Doylestown
Chester County	April 24; May 1, 8	West Chester Univ. Graduate Center, 1160 McDermott Drive, West Chester
Berks County	May 18, 25; June 1	100 Roessner Hall Albright College, 1940 N. 13th Street, Reading

Course in Subdivision & Land Development Review

Berks County	March 9, 16, 23	100 Roessner Hall Albright College, 1940 N. 13th Street, Reading
Wyoming County	March 13, 20, 27	Wyoming Co. Emergency Bldg., Tunkhannock
Lycoming County	April 5, 12, 19	Lycoming Co. Lysock View Complex, 542 County Farm Road, Montoursville
Delaware County	April 27; May 4, 11	Delaware County Intermediate Unit, 200 Yale Avenue, Morton
Montgomery County	May 4, 11, 18	Lansdale Borough Hall, 1 Vine Street, Lansdale
Potter County	June 7, 8	Gunzburger Bldg, 1 North Main Street, Coudersport

PMPEI COURSES FOR WINTER/SPRING 2017

(as of February 6, 2017)

Course in Zoning Administration

Lehigh County	March 1, 8, 15	Lehigh Valley Planning Commission, 961 Marcon Blvd., Allentown
Chester County	April 25; May 4, 9	West Chester Univ. Graduate Center, 1160 McDermott Drive, West Chester

WEBINARS

Webinars run from noon to 1 p.m. For further information and registration contact Ms. Terri Dickow at (800) 232-7722 ext. 1042 or TDickow@boroughs.org.

The Elected Officials Role in Subdivision & Land Development Review Wednesday, March 8, 2017

Duties of a Zoning Hearing Board & the Zoning Officer
Part 1: Wednesday, March 15, 2017
Part 2: Thursday, March 16, 2017

The Benefits of an Effective Planning Commission Wednesday, April 26, 2017

PMPEI 2017 TRAIN-THE-TRAINER CLASS

A "Train-the-Trainer" class is scheduled for new instructors to teach the PMPEI *Course in Zoning*. Train-the-Trainer is PMPEI's way of preparing instructors to teach PMPEI courses by equipping them with an in-depth knowledge of the course content to ensure it will be taught consistently throughout the Commonwealth. Principles of adult education, program procedures, and presentation delivery are also part of the training.

The dates for the intensive training program are Friday and Saturday, May 19 and 20, 2017, and Saturday, June 3, 2017. It will be held at the Centre Region Council of Governments Building in State College, PA. The registration fee is \$150 and covers instruction, materials, all breaks, lunches, and

a Friday night meal. Trainees are responsible for their transportation and lodging.

PMPEI instructors receive compensation for teaching, travel, plus meal expenses. Teaching assignments are made so instructors will be teaching close to where they live.

Citizen and professional planners, and allied professionals, with a minimum of five years' experience in planning and zoning in Pennsylvania are eligible to become PMPEI Certified Instructors. If you are committed to planning education and would like to become a Certified Instructor the deadline for applying for *The Course in Zoning* training is May 5, 2017.

For an application, or more information about PMPEI and the training, contact Stanford Lembeck, AICP, (814) 237-2382, or email slembeck34@gmail.com.

Certification Maintenance (CM) credit may be available for AICP members attending the training. ♦



Central Section Update

By *Rachelle A. Abbott, AICP, Section Chair*

The APA – PA Central Section will host its **Spring Workshop on Thursday, May 18, 2017** at the Linglestown Giant Community Center. The topic will be **Stormwater Management** and speakers will illustrate various perspectives of compliance, coordination, and cost.

Central Section is excited to be hosting the 2017 APA – PA Chapter conference in State College, PA in October. The conference committee's work is underway and a great group of planners have volunteered to help out! The theme of the conference is **Experience, Adapt, Innovate!** Through the call for presenters, the program sub-committee hopes to have a wide array of conference offerings, including basic and advanced subject matter as well as alternative workshop structures. Be sure to mark your calendars for October 22 – 24, 2017, and join us at the Penn Stater!

APA – PA Central Section is pleased to announce **Lindsay Schoch** as the recipient of a **Professional Development Scholarship** from the Section. Congratulations to Lindsay, who will be utilizing the scholarship as reimbursement for AICP exam fees.

The next round of applications for the Professional Development Scholarship will close on August 1, 2017. If interested in applying for a scholarship, visit the APA-PA Chapter website www.planningpa.org for the overview and application. The scholarship is available for the education and training of planners, public officials, and students in the Central Section, including, but not limited to, Section workshops, Chapter conferences, and AICP exam. Scholarship amounts will be awarded based on eligibility, benefit to planning knowledge or career goals, and financial need, with a maximum award of \$500.00.

The APA – PA Central Section welcomes guests to our upcoming meetings. If you are interested in attending or have information to provide, please email the APA – PA Central Section Chair, Rachelle Abbott, AICP at raabbott@stepcorp.org. ♦

Southwest Section Update

By *Katie Stringent, Section Chair*

On **Thursday, March 2, 2017** from 5:30 to 8:30 pm the Southwest Section will be holding a **Winter Social at Games N'At in Pittsburgh's South Side neighborhood**. Games N'At is Pittsburgh's largest arcade offering unlimited play on pool tables, air hockey, foosball, and video games. The event is free for Southwest Section members with a nominal fee for students and non-members. For more information on the social or to register please contact the Southwest Section Council at planswpa@gmail.com.

The Southwest Section welcomes guests to our next meeting on Thursday, March 2, 2017 at 9 a.m. at the Ross Township Municipal Building. The Board will be discussing upcoming spring workshops, and the fall social. Should you have any thoughts and cannot make the meeting, please e-mail Southwest Section Chair, Katie Stringent, at kstringent@sewickleyheightsboro.com. ♦

Northeast Section Update

By *Peter Wulfhorst, AICP, Section Representative*

The Northeast Section is sponsoring a **PA land use law update workshop**. This workshop will provide a review of the case law and administrative decisions issued in the last year pertaining to **Zoning** and is approved for **1.5 CM Law**.

Recent amendments to the PA Municipalities Planning Code as well as a review of Zoning Case Law from the past year will be highlighted. The speaker for the session will be Donald Karpowich; principal in the law firm of Donald G. Karpowich, Attorney-At-Law, and P.C.

The session will be held on **Friday, March 31, 2017 at Northeast PA Alliance, 1151 Oak Street, Pittston, PA**. The workshop will be from 10:00 – 11:30 with lunch & Section meeting to follow. Questions can be directed to Steve Pitoniak 570-963-6400 or Peter Wulfhorst at 570-296-3400. More information can be found on the Chapter website calendar at <https://planningpa.org/event/ne-section-event-land-use-law-update/>. ♦